

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A method for controlling the rate of delivery of a biologically active material, comprising mixing the active material with a solution of a gel-forming macromer and covalently crosslinking ~~said~~ the macromer to form a gel, wherein the macromer comprises at least four blocks and at least one covalently crosslinkable group, and wherein at least two of the blocks are hydrophobic, and at least two of the blocks are hydrophilic.

39. (original) The method of claim 38 wherein the crosslinked gel changes in permeability in response to an effect selected from the group consisting of a change in temperature, a change in ionic concentration, and a change in pH.

40. (original) The method of claim 38 wherein at least one hydrophobic block aggregates in aqueous solution to form a hydrophobic domain.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 wherein the hydrophobicity of ~~said~~ the domain is controlled by selecting the hydrophobicity of the block.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 wherein the hydrophobicity of ~~said~~ the domain is controlled by adding hydrophobic materials to the gel-forming macromer solution.

43. (original) The method of claim 38 wherein the active material is in the form of a microparticle.

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44. (original) The method of claim 38 wherein the gel forms a microparticle after crosslinking.